Beginning in 1883, a project was undertaken to remodel and embellish the church, which was now the central church of the diocese. On September 28, 1884 upon completion of the project and satisfaction of all debt incurred, the new Mother Church of the diocese was consecrated by Archbishop P.J. Ryan of Philadelphia, and its name was changed to the Cathedral of St. Peter marking its new role in the still young diocese comprised of eight counties in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Mr. Speaker, on this 150th anniversary celebration, I would like to congratulate the parishioners of St. Peter's Cathedral. St. Peter's Cathedral, a Scranton landmark that has endured these many years, is a visible example of both the storied history of the City of Scranton and the role the Catholic Church played as an integral part of this community.

EULOGY FOR EDWARD TELLER

HON. CURT WELDON

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the memory of Edward Teller, perhaps the most important scientist of the 20th century, who died Tuesday, September 9, 2003, at his home on the campus of Stanford University, at the age of 95.

Edward Teller was born into a prosperous family of Jewish Hungarians in 1908. After attending schools in Budapest, he went to Munich and Leipzig to earn a PhD. in physical chemistry in 1930. His doctoral thesis, on the hydrogen molecular ion, helped lay the foundation for a theory of molecular orbitals that remains widely accepted today.

Teller studied atomic physics under Niels Bohr in Copenhagen in the early 1930s. In 1935, Teller and his bride, Augusta Harkanyi, went to the United States where he taught at George Washington University. Together with his colleague George Gamow, he established new rules for classifying the ways subatomic particles can escape the nucleus during radioactive decay.

In 1941, Teller became a U.S. citizen, and joined Enrico Fermi's team at the University of Chicago in the epochal experiment that produced the first self-sustaining nuclear chain reaction. Teller then accepted an invitation from the University at Berkeley to work on theoretical studies on the atomic bomb with J. Robert Oppenheimer. When Oppenheimer set up the secret Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory in New Mexico in 1943, Teller was among the first recruited.

As early as 1943, Teller conceived the idea for the hydrogen bomb, a weapon potentially thousands of times more powerful than the atomic bomb. Teller's idea for an H-bomb was a decade ahead of his fellow scientists, who were the best and brightest in their field.

After World War II, in 1946, Teller accepted a position with the University of Chicago, while also serving as a consultant to Los Alamos. When the Soviet Union exploded an atomic bomb in 1949–years before they were expected to do so—the Atomic Energy Commission investigated Teller's proposal for developing an H-bomb. Oppenheimer voted against such a program, siding with scientists who claimed the H-bomb was technologically impossible. The debate was settled by the confession of the British atomic scientist Klaus Fuchs that he had been spying for the Soviet Union since 1942. Fuchs had known of American interest in a hydrogen bomb and passed along U.S. data to the Soviets. In response, President Truman ordered the H-bomb project to proceed.

Teller solved a key problem in designing the H-bomb, proposing that radiation, instead of mechanical shock, could be used to compress and ignite the thermonuclear core. Teller's H-bomb was successfully tested on November 1, 1952. It yielded an explosion of 10 megatons, one thousand times more powerful than the Hiroshima A-bomb.

By the way, on August 12, 1953, the Soviet Union successfully tested their H-bomb, less than one year after Teller's test. So Teller was proven right both about the technical feasibility of the H-bomb, and about the imminent Soviet threat. If Teller had lost his argument with Oppenheimer, the Soviet Union would have beaten the United States to the H-bomb, and the Cold War might have had a very different outcome.

Teller was instrumental in the creation of the United States' second nuclear weapons laboratory, the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory, in 1952. For the next four decades, with Teller often at its head, Lawrence Livermore was the United States' chief laboratory for the design of nuclear weapons.

Throughout his life, Teller served as a prominent government advisor on nuclear weapons, nuclear strategy, and national security issues. In 1982–83, he was a major influence on President Ronald Reagan's proposal to defend the United States from nuclear missile attacks by means of a Strategic Defense Initiative.

In 2003, Edward Teller was awarded the prestigious Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.

Although no longer with us, Teller will always live through his technological achievements and his political ideals. Edward Teller's scientific vision combined with his patriotism and far-sighted wisdom to create a safer world. Teller's invention of the hydrogen bomb thwarted the Soviet Union from achieving a decisive technological advantage over the United States and probably prevented nuclear war. The H-bomb also deterred the USSR from attempting to enslave the western democracies by invading with its vast preponderance of tanks, soldiers, and aircraft. So Teller's awesome invention prevented the Cold War from turning hot, made possible the long half-century stalemate between East and West, and avoided the Third World War that many, but not Teller, thought inevitable. The Cold War ended with the peaceful triumph of democracy and the emergence between the United States and Russia of friendship. Edward Teller deserves a huge amount of credit for this happy outcome.

Edward Teller also deserves credit for conceiving the idea of missile defense as a way of defeating weapons of mass destruction. As early as 1945, Teller authored a report for the Navy arguing that missile defense against atomic weapons is possible. Teller never stopped thinking about the idea of missile defense. He briefed then Governor Ronald Reagan on the possibility of a national missile defense in 1967. He again promoted the idea of strategic missile defenses to President Reagan in the early 1980s. Teller's ideas became the basis for Ronald Reagan's Strategic Defense Initiative. SDI has evolved into the reality of a National Missile Defense to protect the United States from weapons of mass destruction launched by rogue states and terrorists.

Critics claim that missile defenses against weapons of mass destruction cannot work. Ironically, back in the 1950s, Teller's liberal critics said the same thing about the hydrogen bomb, claiming the H-bomb would not work. Those critics were wrong then and they are wrong now. Missile defenses are already technologically proven.

The bottom line about Edward Teller is that, had he never lived, millions would probably be dead today, and the Western democracies might not exist. In the future, millions will continue to enjoy the fruits of freedom and security, sheltered by missile defenses, because of the genius of Edward Teller.

I have introduced two bills that honor the memory of Edward Teller by trying to carry on his work. One bill establishes the Teller-Kurchatov Alliance for Peace. The Teller-Kurchatov Alliance will support joint research on peaceful uses of nuclear energy and promote cooperation and friendship between the United States and Russia. The other bill establishes a Commission on Nuclear Strategy of the United States. The Commission will think broadly and deeply, twenty years into the future, about the long-term role of nuclear weapons given the end of the Cold War and the rapidly changing global security environment. The Commission will harness the intellectual power of men like Edward Teller, the leading intellects of that Great Generation that guided the United States safely through the nuclear perils of the Cold War, in order to gain their wisdom and guidance on the safest course to follow in the future.

In closing, on behalf of the U.S. Congress and the American people, we say farewell to Edward Teller, the lion of science. Following his leadership and vision, we must continue to search for scientific answers to the world's most demanding challenges.

We must embrace his calls for greater cooperation with our former adversaries in the Soviet Union. Dr. Teller's life and work make clear that we can solve any problem, overcome any challenge and rise to any occasion for the good of humanity.

EXPRESSING SYMPATHY TO CITIZENS OF EUROPE

HON. MICHAEL H. MICHAUD

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MICHAUD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember the victims of the heat wave that gripped Europe through the month of August. Record-setting temperatures across the continent resulted in crop-ravaging drought, devastating forest fires and the deaths of thousands.

Cities across Europe from London to Paris to Rome experienced temperatures never before seen in recorded history. A lack of rainfall and soaring heat left crops withered and unusable. The economic costs of such losses have

been measured in the billions. Forest fires burned thousands of acres, left hundreds homeless and several dead. Sadly, thousands lost their lives as a result of dehydration, fever and other heat-related illness. In France alone, more than ten thousand people lost their lives.

Citizens of Europe have not hesitated to bow their heads and join us in grief during times of tragedy, especially to remember the terrible events of September 11, 2001. Let us take a moment to express our sympathies and share in the grief of the family and friends of those who succumbed during Europe's recent human tragedy.

TRIBUTE TO LENEXA, KANSAS, MASONIC LODGE #135

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, like all Members of this House, I commute to Washington for my work in the House of Representatives. I live in Lenexa, Kansas, and it is my honor to rise today on behalf of my home town and my congressional district, to recognize the Lenexa, Kansas, Masonic Lodge, #135, on the 130th anniversary of its founding, which is upcoming on October 15th.

A document compiled by Lenexa Historical Society member and current Masonic lodge member Angelo Mino, based on articles by Henry D. Gillette and Joseph R. Wilson, reveals that the history of this lodge is intertwined with the history of Lenexa. In reading the history of this, the very first fraternal or civic organization of Lenexa, I learned much about Lenexa's history.

The City of Lenexa was platted in 1869, and the first Masonic Lodge meeting was held the very next year, in 1870. The Lenexa lodge received official recognition from the Masonic organization on October 15, 1873. The earliest leaders of the lodge were also the early leaders of Lenexa. Members of this Masonic Lodge include the first mayor of Lenexa, the first police judge, the first postmaster, and the first city physician. This tradition of community service has continued to today.

The first Eastern Star chapter associated with the Masonic Lodge was also established in 1873. After the lodge building burned down in 1877, the Eastern Star chapter was not reconstituted until 1919 when the ADDA Chapter was formed.

In 1922, the first DeMolay group in Johnson County, Kansas, received its charter. The Lenexa Lodge has sponsored this chapter since 1994. In 1953, the Rainbow Girls Assembly #56 of Lenexa began.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the members of the Lenexa Masonic Lodge #135 on this remarkable anniversary, and thank them for 130 years of community leadership and service. I hope that their lodge will continue to flourish and serve our community for this century and beyond.

HONORING THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF BOB G. CARTER

HON. STEVAN PEARCE

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bob Carter for receiving the 2003 Governor's New Mexico Distinguished Public Service Award. To know Bob Carter is to respect him. He is a public servant, a leader, a statesman and a friend.

Bob and his wife, Glenda, moved to Lovington, New Mexico in 1971 and have been an instrumental part of the community. He held the job of Lovington economic development director before becoming assistant city manager, and then city manager. In 1992, Bob was named citizen of the year by both the Board of Realtors and the Lovington Chamber of Commerce.

Bob now works for the good people of Southern New Mexico as the District Outreach Director in my office. He travels the entire district listening to the concerns and the visions of my constituents. Thanks to his background and expertise in city government, he works especially hard to facilitate economic development opportunities in Southern New Mexico.

Bob has left his trademark on our communities for his love of God, family, state and country. I thank him for his services and for his dedication to making life better for the people of Southern New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing and congratulating Bob Carter, a remarkable man who has selflessly served his community and fellowman. God Bless him and his family.

IN PRAISE OF MOTHER TERESA

HON. SUE WILKINS MYRICK

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, I cannot hope to give fitting praise to Mother Teresa's impeccable legacy of generosity and selflessness on the occasion of her beatification by Pope John Paul II. Reflecting on her Christ-like attitude and example of loving charity, I share feelings of awe and deep respect with so many others who can't help but venerate this heroic woman.

I had the great honor of attending Mother Teresa's funeral in Calcutta, her adopted home and base of her own order, Missionaries of Charity. Representing the U.S. Congress on this occasion, I was once again humbled by her devotion to some of the world's most destitute citizens. Not only did this ''angel of mercy'' ease the physical horrors of so many hopeless people, she treated them as God's own children, leaving a global impression with her hands-on determination.

While Mother Teresa's impact was always felt by the impoverished in India, her inspirational spirit infused charitable objectives and even public policy on an international scale. She aided victims of war and tragedy in every circumstance, from those dying of AIDS in New York to the desperate in Beirut and Palestine. Ever-mindful of the sanctity of even unborn human life, the good nun is known for asserting that ''a child is a gift from God. If you do not want him, give him to me.'' As Pope John Paul II prepares to beatify this truly virtuous woman, I pray that her fearless displays of unconditional love and charity may forever encourage us all.

TRIBUTE TO NATIONAL SPORTS CENTER FOR THE DISABLED

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, September 24, 2003

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to The National Sports Center for the Disabled in Winter Park, Colorado. This outstanding internationally recognized recreational program in my district has been serving people with disabilities more than thirty years.

Founded in January, 1970 by The Winter Park Ski Resort ski school to teach skiing to amputees from The Children's Hospital in Denver, this now year-round recreational program has now served over 48,000 persons with a range of disabilities.

Blind, paraplegic, cancer, stroke, amputees, deaf and cerebral palsy children and adults from across the country participate in skiing, mountain climbing, hiking, horseback riding, golfing, rafting and fishing in the beautiful Fraser Valley of Colorado.

Recreational and competitive programs prepare disabled athletes for this range of mountain sport activities to develop confidence and self-esteem in an athletic environment long thought to be inaccessible to disabled members of society.

The Sports Center's competitive programs groom elite-level skiers for regional, national and international competition. Winter Park's Disabled Ski Team competed in the 2002 Paralympics in Salt Lake City, winning over 20 medals in competition.

In 1992, a therapeutic riding center, run by volunteers, was established to give participants riding lessons, training riders in the care, grooming and health of horses. The Center also provides a fully accessible camping experience for disabled campers and their families. This outdoor experience is offered on a first come, first serve basis and is completely free.

Through a partnership with The Metropolitan State College of Denver, the Center is creating a virtual reality skiing experience on the internet to help the disabled overcome the fear of the unknown and work toward participating in the many athletic programs available at Winter Park.

Through the generous support of the Robert R. McCormick Tribune Foundation, the Denver Broncos Charities Fund, Barbara and Joseph Glaser Scholarships, and the NSCD's Sponsor an Athlete Scholarship fund, athletes from around the country are selected to come to Colorado. Scholarships are awarded based on need and athletic commitment.

Widely considered the largest and most successful outdoor therapeutic recreation agency in the world, each year thousands of children and adults with disabilities come to our magnificent state to learn they, too, can enjoy the mountains, trails, golf courses and streams